

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8603

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SUBJECT: SITUATION AT BELGRADE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY

REF: BELGRADE 850 AND PREVIOUS

1. FEB 26 MEETING OF REGULAR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STUDENTS OF BELGRADE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY ATTENDED BY OVER 500 STUDENT DELEGATES, ACCORDING FOLLOWING DAY'S POLITIKA. MEETING SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN "ELECTRIFIED ATMOSPHERE, HEATED UP BY SHARP DEFENSIVE TONE OF STATEMENTS BY STUDENT LEADERS", PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF FACULTY COMMITTEE OF STUDENT FEDERATION. THEY, ALONG WITH OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY STUDENT FEDERATION ZORAN DJINDJIC, SUBMITTED REPORT ON WORK OF FACULTY LEADERSHIP STRONGLY DEFENDING EIGHT PHILOSOPHERS WHO ARE UNDER ATTACK.

2. ASSEMBLY BEGAN BY ELECTING PRESIDING BOARD WHICH, "WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION", INCLUDED ONE REP EACH FROM ZAGREB AND LJUBLJANA PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTIES. NEXT CAME REPORT OF FACULTY COMMITTEE, (I.E. STUDENT COMMITTEE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FACULTY MATTERS AT PHIL FACULTY), WHICH, "ACCOMPANIED BY STRONG WORDS UNFIT TO BE PRINTED", CHARACTERIZED PARTY CRITICISM OF EIGHT PROFESSORS AS "CONFLICT WITH A WHOLE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE". IN DEFENDING EIGHT

PROFESSORS' REPUTATION, REPORT "ESPECIALLY STRONGLY CRITICIZED" DECISIONS OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE AND MOST RECENT UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY, BOTH OF WHICH "SHOULD HAVE DISSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM UNTRUTHFUL ALLEGATIONS". REPORT WENT ON TO SAY "SOCIALIZATION" (I.E., ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SELF-MANAGING BODY INCLUDING 50 PERCENT OUTSIDERS) OF PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY REALLY AMOUNTS TO ITS "POLITICIZATION".

3. POLITIKA NOTES OUTGOING STUDENT LEADERS ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF "INTER-FACULTY COOPERATION, TAKING IT TO MEAN THE RECENT ATTEMPT TO UNIFY THREE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTIES AT MEETING OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN LJUBLJANA" (BELGRADE 602). ASSEMBLY THEN APPROVED MOTION THAT TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION OF LJUBLJANA MEETING, AND DECISION OF ZAGREB PUBLIC PROSECUTOR BANNING IT BOTH BE READ IN FULL BEFORE ASSEMBLY.

4. DISCUSSION BECAME PARTICULARLY HEATED, ACCORDING POLITIKA, WHEN SOME STUDENT LEADERS AND MEMBER OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDED TO "CRITICIZE EVERYTHING -- PERSONNEL INCOMES, INFORMATION MEDIA, SITUATION IN SPHERE OF CULTURE, LEGISLATION, AND SPEECHES BY HIGH-RANKING PARTY OFFICIALS -- EXPLAINING THEIR ANGER ON GROUNDS OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL THAT HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED IN OUR COUNTRY WILL NOT REMAIN A DEAD LETTER ON PAPER".

5. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL STUDENTS REPORTEDLY OBJECTED TO WAY ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN ORGANIZED AND RAISED QUESTION OF LEGALITY OF INCLUDING REPS FROM ZAGREB AND LJUBLJANA, EXTENT OF SUPPORT AMONG PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY STUDENTS FOR DISSIDENT EIGHT PROFESSORS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY FACT THAT MAJORITY OF THE 500 PRESENT VOTED TO ADOPT CONCLUSIONS OF FACULTY COMMITTEE SUPPORTING REJECTION OF UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY INDICTMENT OF THE EIGHT. MAJORITY ALSO VOTED TO SEND LETTER TO MARXIST CENTER OF SERBIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEMANDING AN EXPLANATION OF JUST WHAT CONSTITUTES "DIVERGENT INTERPRETATIONS OF MARXISM" IN YUGOSLAVIA.

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6. COMMENT. CLEARLY STUDENT SUPPORT IN PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY FOR POSITION OF EIGHT NOT JUST CONFINED TO MINORITY, AS SOME PARTY LEADERS HAVE CLAIMED IN PAST. INTERESTINGLY, WHILE POLITIKA NOTES ONE OF MAIN AGENDA ITEMS WAS TO ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP OF PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY STUDENT ORGANIZATION, PAPER DOES NOT SAY WHETHER ELECTION ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE, AND IF SO, WHAT RESULTS WERE.

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